

JUDGE MARY ANN GUNN: Washington/Madison County Drug Court is now in session. All right, I think I want to start with Sharina Watkins. State of Arkansas vs. Sharina Watkins, Case No. CR2008-270. Now, Ms. Waktins, it's my understanding that you made a phone call saying that you were supposed to be on television, and you were in your lawyer's office, and I want to know what lawyer it was.

SHARINA WATKINS: My uncle went to speak to his attorney.

GUNN: No. No. No. I want to know what lawyer you were talking to when you called Jones TV and said I'm not supposed to be on TV.

WATKINS: I wasn't talking — I said — I did say I was in a lawyer's office. I was on my way to work.

GUNN: Okay.

WATKINS: I spoke to him. I've signed -- it's been known for a long time that —

GUNN: Well, it's ultimately my decision who is on — when we televise, who's on TV and who's not. Now, your uncle, what's your uncle's name?

WATKINS: Ed.

GUNN: Ed, are you here?

(RAISES HAND)

GUNN: Come on up, Ed. It's my decision. They yanked —

WATKINS: Okay. Well, I —

GUNN: — the whole program because of that, Sharina.

WATKINS: When you — when you came into class, both times you —

GUNN: I understand that.

WATKINS: — visited, you said if you don't want to be filmed —

GUNN: That's right.

WATKINS: — all you had to do is ask.

GUNN: You have to ask.

WATKINS: I've asked multiple times.

GUNN: And then I make the decision, Sharina. I make the decision. Okay, were you in — what's your name for the record?

ED BOATRIGHT: Ed.

GUNN: Ed. What's your last name?

BOATRIGHT: Boatright.

GUNN: All right, Mr. Boatright, were you at a lawyer's office speaking to a lawyer about Sharina not being televised?

BOATRIGHT: I'm not sure I talked to him in his office. I have a lawyer that's a friend and I may have mentioned it to him.

GUNN: Okay. And what lawyer would that be?

BOATRIGHT: Dan Ivy.

GUNN: Dan Ivy, okay. Do you have an objection to Sharina being on television?

BOATRIGHT: That's entirely up to her.

GUNN: Okay. So that's not anything you object to.

BOATRIGHT: Well, I don't want it to create problems for her.

GUNN: No problem. Yeah, I understand. Okay, thank you, Mr. Boatright.

BOATRIGHT: You're welcome.

GUNN: Thank you very much. Sharina, what's your problem being televised?

WATKINS: I work for an organization — a company that has over thirty thousand members and I work with a large portion of the public sector. And I thought that I wasn't to be on TV. I —

GUNN: That's not my question.

WATKINS: — signed paperwork —

GUNN: My question is, what is your problem with —

WATKINS: My problem is that I — I — it's a professional job and my supervisor knows about it. He said it's fine that I know you're in Drug Court, no one else needs to know. You're not televised are you? And I said no. I requested not to be televised, sir. He saw me on TV and was very upset and that's why I called Jones Television.

GUNN: One of the reasons that you're televised is because we were merciful when you went to work at your last professional job drunk. We kept you in this program. We have kept you in this program despite some of your sanctions. You should have been terminated. You should have gone to RPF. Now, if you are requesting special — I mean, they — they pulled the entire program. The program is a community outreach program, Sharina. It is to help educate the community. Every person in here, including the treatment team, are trying to teach the members of our community what drugs can do.

WATKINS: Yes, ma'am.

GUNN: And hopefully, hopefully save some lives.

WATKINS: Yes, ma'am.

GUNN: And you are not special.

WATKINS: Okay. I was just —

GUNN: Any more special than any other participant —

WATKINS: I was just —

GUNN: — in this program.

WATKINS: — going on your word. You came and spoke to us —

GUNN: I said —

WATKINS: — on two different occasions and you said if you want — if you don't want to be on television, you don't have to be. All you have to do is ask. I've done all of that, so I don't —

GUNN: Well, you —

WATKINS: — understand —

GUNN: — went a step further than that.

WATKINS: And they didn't pull the entire episode, they edited me out. That episode is still showing.

GUNN: Okay. Let me tell you this —

WATKINS: I don't understand —

GUNN: You want to remain in this program?

WATKINS: Yes.

GUNN: Okay. It will be my decision whether or not you are televised. Now don't you dare call —

WATKINS: Could I ask —

GUNN: — any other organization, non-profit organization that works with the Drug Court program.

WATKINS: Could I —

GUNN: Don't you call them. Don't you talk to them. Don't you call Altrusa or the schools or anyone else. It is not your place.

WATKINS: It's not my right?

GUNN: Your place is to go through your counselor —

WATKINS: I did do that.

GUNN: — and your place is — that's your right. That's fine. I'm setting you for termination. You are not —

WATKINS: I don't understand.

GUNN: You are not an active participant in this program. You know, you want special treatment —

WATKINS: No, ma'am.

GUNN: — and we have given you special treatment —

WATKINS: Ma'am, I just — I took you at your word.

GUNN: Okay.

WATKINS: I asked to not be televised. I don't know how that is a problem.

GUNN: You —

WATKINS: I —

GUNN: My word was, you sign — and I'm not going to argue with you another minute.

WATKINS: Okay.

GUNN: My — what I told you all was if you do not want to be televised, sign up, then I look at it and talk to the treatment team. It is part of the community service of this program. And all I'm telling you is — you know, you have had

an attitude since the day you walked in this door and we have bent over backwards but you seem to think that you are privileged and you seem to think that we need to break all of the rules or bend the rules for you, Sharina. And I'm appalled that a non-profit organization with our community outreach program would be affected by your telephone calls and threats. Now that's the last I'm going to say to you and I will see you next month at termination. That's the order of the Court.

WATKINS: Your Honor, may I please —

GUNN: No, you may not. You may go through your lawyer, otherwise I'm going to put you in jail. If you become disorderly, I'm going to put you in jail.